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GOVERNOR

management classes – PR

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**Environment Department Announces 2004 Class Schedule For
Solid Waste Facility Operator Certification Training**

(Santa Fe, NM) – In an effort to help local governments and private businesses meet the waste-handling needs of communities and comply with state regulations, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is offering certification classes in composting, landfill, recycling, and transfer station facility operations.

The classes, designed primarily for individuals operating various solid waste management facilities, are also open to the general public. Attendees may become state-certified operators by successfully completing the class and meeting other experience requirements.

The cost of the classes range from \$75 to \$200 and offer participants the opportunity to acquire the best and most current information on solid waste management practices. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, private sector owners and operators, as well as other state agency staff. Each of the 3 and 5-day courses conclude with an examination. Attendees wanting certification must score at least 70 percent on the examination and meet certain experience requirements

The 2004 schedule includes the following classes:

Compost Facility	April 20 through 22 October 19 through 21	Ruidoso Downs Albuquerque
Landfill	March 29 through April 2 August 23 through 27	Moriarty Farmington
Recycling Facility	July 13 through 15 December 7 through 9	Farmington Albuquerque
Transfer Station	May 18 through 20 October 5 through 7	Gallup Las Cruces

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Classes are taught in cooperation with two non-profit solid waste organizations.

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) sponsors the compost and recycling classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting Nancy Judd, Executive Director, NMRC at (505) 983-4470 or through the NMRC web site at www.nmrecycle.org.

The Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sponsors the landfill and transfer station classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting Ellen Smyth, Training Chairman, SWANA Roadrunner chapter, at (505) 528-3800 or through the Roadrunner chapter web site at www.nmswana.com.

For more information contact Charles R. Ferguson, in the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Planning and Technical Assistance Program, at (505) 762-3728 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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